

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting data in bursts in a communications network, the method comprising:
 - providing data for transmission;
 - providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;
 - forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and
 - forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising:
 - transmitting said first set of bursts via a first channel, and
 - transmitting said second set of bursts via a second, different channel.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, comprising:
 - providing a first parameter for indicating a timing offset between a first, earlier burst comprising at least some of said transmission data and a second, later burst comprising further transmission data;
 - providing a second parameter for indicating a timing offset between a third, earlier burst comprising at least some of said FEC data and a fourth, later burst comprising further FEC data;
 - forming said first burst including said first timing parameter and
 - forming said third burst including said second timing parameter.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein:
 - said at least some of said transmission data comprises some of said transmission data; and
 - said further transmission data comprises some more of said transmission data.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein:
 - said at least some of said transmission data comprises all of said transmission data; and
 - said further transmission data comprises additionally provided transmission data.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3-~~to~~-5, comprising:

 said at least some of said FEC data comprises some of said FEC data; and
 said further FEC data comprises some more of said FEC data.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3-~~to~~-5, comprising:

 said at least some of said FEC data comprises all of said FEC data; and
 said further FEC data comprises some additionally provided FEC data.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3-~~to~~-7, comprising:

 dividing said first burst between a first set of packets;
 identifying each of said first set of packets with a first identity;
 dividing said third burst between a second set of packets; and
 identifying each of said second set of packets with a second identity.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein said first and second identities are the same.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8-~~or~~-9 3, comprising:

 dividing said second burst between a third set of packets; wherein providing said first timing parameter comprises:

 specifying a time until a start of a first one of said third set of packets.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 8-~~to~~-9 3, comprising:

 dividing said fourth burst between a fourth set of packets; wherein providing said second timing parameter comprises:

 specifying a time until a start of a first one of said fourth set of packets.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claim 8-~~to~~-11 3, comprising:

 preparing service information; and
 including said second identify in said service information.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, comprising:
including said second identity in a descriptor; and
including said descriptor in a table forming part of said service information.
14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 13~~, wherein said transmission data comprises a plurality of data packets, and said method comprises:
placing at least some of data packets in respective ones of a first set of sections.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, comprising:
including said first timing parameter in at least one of said first set of sections.
16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14 or 15, comprising:
calculating a timing parameter for each section based on said first timing parameter and
including a respective timing parameter in each of said first set of sections.
17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 16~~, wherein said FEC data comprises a plurality of data packets, and said method comprises:
placing at least some of data packets in respective ones of a second set of sections.
18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, comprising:
including said second timing parameter in at least one of said second set of sections.
19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17 or 18, comprising:
calculating a timing parameter for each section based on said second timing parameter and
including a respective timing parameter in each one of said second set of sections.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, comprising:

providing a first parameter for identifying a burst comprising at least some of said transmission data;
providing a second parameter for identifying at least one burst comprising FEC associated with said at least some of said transmission data;
forming a first burst including said first identifying parameter and
forming a second burst including said second identifying parameter.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claims 1~~, comprising:

labelling at least one burst of said first set of bursts with an identifier; and
labelling at least one burst of said second set of bursts with a corresponding identifier.

22. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of according to claim 1, wherein transmitting data is internet protocol datacasting over a digital broadcasting network according to any preceding claim.~~

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising computer program instructions for causing data processing means to perform the method according to any preceding claim to provide data for transmission; to provide forward error correction (FEC) data for said data; to form a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and to form a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A system of transmitting data in bursts in a communications network comprising:

providing data for transmission;
providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and
forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

26. (Original) A network element comprising:
means for providing data for transmission;
means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;
means for forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and
means for forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

27. (Original) A multiprotocol encapsulator comprising:
an input for providing data for transmission;
a processor for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;
a processor for forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data and
a processor for forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

28. (Currently Amended) A terminal for receiving data in bursts from a
communications network comprising:
means for receiving a first set of bursts comprising transmission data and
means for receiving a second set of bursts comprising forward error
correction (FEC) data for said transmission data.